

BRAZIL ANNOUNCES PROPOSALS TO PROMOTE INCLUSIVE GREEN ECONOMY AHEAD OF RIO+20

BRASÍLIA (November 1, 2011) – The Brazilian government released today the proposals it will bring to the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) to be held in Rio de Janeiro from May 28 to June 6, 2012.

At a press conference in Brasília, the Minister of Environment, Izabella Teixeira, and the Under-Secretary-General for Environment, Energy, Science and Technology for the Ministry of External Relations, Ambassador Luiz Alberto Figueiredo Machado, highlighted that the proposals demonstrate Brazil's commitment to sustainable development and to one of its essential elements, poverty eradication, as well as to the strengthening of multilateralism.

Minister Izabella Teixeira and Ambassador Figueiredo also said that the Rio+20 Conference presents a unique opportunity for participating countries to identify long-term solutions to current global challenges in the economic, social and environmental fields.

The proposals were submitted to the United Nations as Brazil's contribution to the first draft of the Rio+20 declaration, which will be negotiated throughout 2012 by the U.N. member states. Resulting from extensive consultations with government institutions and multiple stakeholders from Brazilian civil society, the proposals include:

- **Global Socio-environmental Protection Program:** Brazil proposes the development of a Global Socio-environmental Protection Program in an effort to overcome extreme poverty and promote policies that ensure environmental quality, food security, adequate housing and access to clean water for all.
- **Sustainable Development Goals:** On the basis of an inclusive green economy program, complex negotiations that seek to establish stringent and binding targets could be replaced by guiding objectives in areas where there is broad convergence of views. Similar to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), this approach can guide countries towards sustainable development.
- **A Global Pact for Sustainable Production and Consumption:**
 - **Sustainable Public Procurement:** Procurement policies are based on the premise that governments can play a major role in changing sustainable production and consumption patterns.
 - **Efficient Energy Consumption Labeling:** From the different national energy efficiency initiatives, many of which are voluntary, an international multi-sectoral initiative could be proposed under Rio+20 to require a review of existing international standards.
 - **Funding for Study and Research on Sustainable Development:** Brazil proposes that countries count sustainable development and the promotion of an inclusive, green economy as top priorities when evaluating the financing of science, technology and innovation projects, scholarships and research funds.
- **Repository of Initiatives:** Although continued research is essential, many of the technologies and practices required for sustainable development are already available. There are many successful experiences in the areas including urban development, sustainable consumption, health, housing, sanitation, energy efficiency and sustainable agriculture.

- **International Protocol for the Sustainability of the Financial Sector:** The financial sector has the unique ability to induce and foster the international economy. Brazil proposes to expand and scale up positive experiences related to the use, by the financial system worldwide, of responsible standards from the environmental and social perspectives.
- **New Indicators for Measuring Development:** Brazil supports the creation of a process to measure, in innovative ways, progress toward environmental, social and economic development that engages all relevant stakeholders and builds upon existing experiences.
- **Pact for an Inclusive Green Economy:**
 - **Sustainability reports:** Business, banks and pension fund institutions, among other private sector stakeholders – could agree at Rio+20 on the mandatory inclusion of social, environmental and corporate governance performance information in their annual sustainability reports. This information would meet internationally accepted standards and be comparable with regard to sustainable practices.
 - **Sustainability Indices:** Discuss the adoption of comparable sustainability to serve as reference for stock exchange investment. The indices, as well as sustainability reports, would expand the focus on the performance of companies and to foster corporate social responsibility.
- **Proposals on the Institutional Framework for Sustainable Development:**
 - **Institutional Coordination Mechanism for Sustainable Development:** Efforts to promote the institutional arrangement for sustainable development at the international level should provide real incentives for existing institutions to pursue common goals from converging strategies and coordinated activities. In this regard, Brazil considers the development of an integrated information platform on sustainable development topics critical, as well as the adoption of specific mandates for international organizations to establish joint programs and strategies to address crosscutting issues in an integrated manner.
 - **Reform of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) by transforming it into the United Nations Sustainable Development Council:** Rio+20 could begin the ECOSOC reform process to transform the Council into the United Nations Sustainable Development Council -- a central forum for the discussion of sustainable development, treating the environmental, economic and social dimensions equally and enjoying political support and power to provide coordination guidance to all actions of the UN system in the field of sustainable development.
 - **Improving International Environmental Governance:** Rio+20 should move forward with discussions on existing processes established on international environmental governance. It should, at a minimum, make decisions to establish universal participation in the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and mandatory contributions according to a scale to be set at the same standards as other UN organizations.
 - **Launch of a negotiation process for a Global Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-making and Access to Justice:** Brazil will support the beginning of a negotiation process of a global convention to ensure implementation of Principle 10 of the Rio Declaration, which states that "environmental issues are best handled with the participation of all concerned citizens, at the relevant level."

- **Participation of Non-governmental Actors in Multilateral Processes:** Brazil hopes that Rio+20 will present results which, respecting the principles of the multilateral system and the sovereignty of nations, will promote effective and creative connections between the non-governmental world and the multilateral decision-making processes, which is currently based on intergovernmental decisions.
- **Water Governance:** Brazil supports that the sustainable use of the water be treated in a more integrated way within the United Nations. Discussion should also take into account the participation of governments, private sector, development banks and multilateral agencies.

The full text of the Brazilian submission to the preparatory process of the Rio+20 Conference is available at: <http://www.uncsd2012.org/rio20/content/documents/BRAZIL%20Submission%20%20English%201.11.11doc.pdf>

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